

FOREWORD

The San Joaquin River system has tremendous social, environmental, and economic value to the people of California. The river system provides water for farms, cities, and industries; hydroelectric power; fish and wildlife; recreation; and navigation. In fact, there are often more demands for its resources than the river can provide — the San Joaquin River is over-subscribed. Independent, uncoordinated actions often pit some beneficial uses of water against others, resulting in deterioration of the overall health of the river system. Flood protection facilities along the river system come into play as well.

Assembly Bill 3603 (Chapter 1068, Statutes of 1990) was introduced to stem further degradation in the San Joaquin River system. It established a consensus-based effort to solve water-use problems within the system. As stipulated in AB 3603, this plan was prepared by an Advisory Council and an Action Team representing a wide range of federal, State, and local agencies and private interests concerned with protecting the health of the San Joaquin River system. The plan was developed in a spirit of cooperation and consensus among the participating agencies and individuals. Conclusions and recommendations do not bind the participants or the agencies they represent to any specific position, policy, or funding outlay.

The plan describes and recommends specific projects, studies, and acquisitions that will help revive the San Joaquin River system. These recommendations should be pursued aggressively by Federal, State, local, and individual groups. This plan can also be used as a guide by those who must implement the federal Central Valley Project Improvement Act (PL 102-575).



Robert G. Potter, Chairman
Advisory Council
San Joaquin River Management Program

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The following organizations have provided photographs for use in this report.

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